

THE PASSAGE FROM THE WORLD

the disobedience, irreverence, and ingratitude that I have committed towards you, and all the pain and sorrow that I have caused you, and the little solicitude that I have had for your salvation. I ask your benediction.

" Pray earnestly to God for me, and have prayers offered, for the love of Christ crucified. Forgive me for having written words of bitterness to you; I do not write them to you to distress you, but because I am in doubt, and know not what the goodness of God will do with me. I want to have done my duty. And do not make yourself unhappy, because with bodily presence I am far away from you, and you from me ; for, although your presence would be a very great consolation to me, I have greater consolation and gladness at seeing the fruit that you are producing in Holy Church. Now I beseech you to labour more zealously, for never had she such great need. And Christ on earth and Messer Tommaso are sending you the instruments with which *you* will be able to work well.¹ And never, because of any persecution, depart without leave of our lord the Pope. Take comfort, take comfort in Christ sweet Jesus, without any bitterness. I say no more to you. Remain in the holy and sweet charity of God. Sweet Jesus, Jesus Love." ²

The letter, or rather revelation, which accompanied this, and which Fra Tommaso Caffarini declares that Catherine wrote with her own hand, is entitled : " To the aforesaid Maestro Raimondo, signifying to him certain things and new mysteries that God had wrought in her soul on the Sunday of Sexagesima " :—

" In the name of Jesus Christ crucified and of sweet Mary. "I was panting with sorrow, through the crucified desire which was newly conceived in the sight of God ; for the light of the understanding had mirrored itself in the eternal Trinity, and in that abyss was seen the beauty and dignity of the rational creature, and the misery into which the soul falls by the fault of

¹ *i. e.* the papal briefs, several of which, addressed to Raimondo at Genoa, are in the *Archivio Vaticano*, Reg. 310.

² Letter 373 (102). I quote throughout from the fuller and more accurate text of the Casanatense MS. 292.